



JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

JONATHAN E. FREEDMAN
Chief Deputy Director

313 North Figueroa Street, Room 806
Los Angeles, California 90012
TEL (213) 240-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Gloria Molina
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

December 3, 2008

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **HIV PREVENTION SERVICES SOLICITATION STATUS AND FUNDING CHANGES**

This is to provide you with an update on the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Office of AIDS Programs and Policy's (OAPP) HIV Prevention Services Request for Proposal (RFP) process and to notify you of DPH's intent to implement the "Funding/Services Adjustments and Reallocations" provision of HIV prevention services contract agreements after the extensions are considered by your Board.

SOLICITATION STATUS

As discussed in DPH's October 14, 2008 memo to your Board, OAPP initiated three (3) RFP processes this year: two for HIV Counseling and Testing services (RFP# 2008-01 and RFP# 2008-03) and one for Health Education/Risk Reduction (HE/RR) services (RFP# 2008-02). These RFPs were released on April 18, 2008, August 12, 2008, and June 14, 2008, respectively. Delays in the RFP processes will preclude new contracts from beginning on January 1, 2009; therefore, contract extensions are necessary to avoid gaps in services. The delays are principally due to the volume of proposals received, the need to identify qualified, non-conflicted reviewers and the need to re-solicit a portion of the original HCT RFP. The OAPP contract extension request will be reviewed at the December 3, 2008, Agenda Review meeting for consideration by your Board on December 16, 2008.

By December 3, 2008, all proposals submitted for HCT services will have been reviewed by internal and external evaluators and will be prepared for allocation recommendations. OAPP has also successfully recruited over one hundred (100) evaluators and initiated scheduling for HE/RR review panel sessions. These review panel sessions are scheduled through February 2009. After allocation recommendations are made, DPH will negotiate contracts with providers and send a Board Letter to your Board asking for authorization to execute contracts. It is DPH's intent to begin new programs no later than June 1, 2009.

The RFPs follow the programmatic and funding recommendations of the Los Angeles County HIV Prevention Planning Committee (PPC). In addition to priority population changes, the PPC recommended, and OAPP strongly endorsed, a significant increased investment in HIV Counseling and Testing services and a decreased investment in HE/RR services. Reducing the number of undiagnosed persons living with HIV is a critical prevention strategy and the PPC recommended an increased investment in testing resources consistent with this strategy.

FUNDING CHANGES

The funding shift from HE/RR to HCT, coupled with reductions in the State and federal funding investment for HIV prevention translates to more than a \$2.0 million decrease for HE/RR services. Between FY00 and FY08, federal funding for HIV prevention has been reduced by 34%, and more recently between FY04 and FY08, federal funding for HIV prevention has been reduced by \$795,591 (6%). State funding for HE/RR was reduced by \$359,102 for FY08/09 just ten days ago.

Consequently, DPH plans to adjust the HIV prevention services contract funding levels beginning January 1, 2009. Specifically, HE/RR contracts will be reduced by 9% and HCT contracts will be reduced by 6% during the five-month extension period between January 1 and May 31, 2009.

Over the last several years, OAPP has been able to absorb funding reductions and maintain contract levels by relying on both year-to-year unspent rollover funds and through several strategic administrative reductions. Regrettably, all prior year rollover funds have been exhausted and the only remaining recourse is contract alignment with current year revenue.

If you have any questions related to this matter, please contact Mario J. Pérez, Director, OAPP, at (213) 351-8001.

JEF:mjp

c: Jonathan E. Freedman
Sheila Shima
Robert Ragland
Mario J. Pérez